



**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 5TH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
MEETING, BUJUMBURA, REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI
21 APRIL 2009**

1. The 5th Council of Ministers' Meeting on the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and the Bordering States was held in Bujumbura at Hotel Source du Nil from the 20th to 21st April 2009.
2. The Meeting brought together Ministers and Plenipotentiaries from the states of Burundi, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.
3. The meeting further brought together various partners of RECSA in the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol – UNREC, IC/GLR, EAC, EASSI, ISS, MAG, Saferworld and EAANSA
4. The Meeting was opened by the First Deputy President of the Republic of Burundi, Dr Yves SAHINGUVU, who called on members to consider what had been achieved under each of the seven key areas of action identified under the Coordinated Agenda for Action, and to give recommendations needed for further improvements.
5. The Meeting received with satisfaction a progress report on the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol from the Executive

Secretary, Dr Francis K. Sang and a report from the TAC Chairman, Mr. Onesphore Mbazumutima, on the proceedings and recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee meeting held on 19th and 20th January 2009 and the Extraordinary TAC meeting held on 18th April 2009. The Council of Ministers adopted both reports.

6. The Council appreciated the work done by RECSA and noted that there was more ground to cover to achieve the regional aspirations through concerted efforts.
7. The Council welcomed the granting of Observer Status to RECSA by the United Nations General Assembly under resolution A/62/PV.62 during its 62nd plenary meeting held in New York on 6th December 2007.
8. The Council commended the Republic of Kenya for fulfilling its full financial obligations and for the commitment to offer free office space to the RECSA Secretariat in Nairobi.
9. The Council further commended the Governments of the Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Uganda for partial contributions to the operations of the Secretariat and called on other Member States to honour their financial obligations to RECSA.
10. The Council appreciated the international community; US, Germany, (through the EAC/GTZ collaboration), Norway, Netherlands, Japan and the UK for their continued financial support to RECSA and urged them to continue.
11. The Council admitted the Republic of Congo as the 13th Member of RECSA;
12. The Council congratulated the Executive Secretary for the good work done, received the introduction of the Deputy Executive Secretary, Amb. Tharcisse Midonzi, to the Council and

extended the mandate of the Executive Secretary, Dr. Francis K. Sang, until April 2013, with effect from April 2010

13. The Meeting congratulated Mr. Erastus Mwencha for being elected Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Mr. Stephen Karangizi for being elected as Assistant Secretary-General (Programmes) in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat;
14. The Republic of Burundi handed over Chairmanship of the RECSA Council of Ministers and the Technical Advisory Committee to the Republic of Djibouti.
15. The members thanked the Government of Burundi for hosting a very successful conference and for the kind hospitality accorded to them and their delegations.
16. The Meeting was officially closed by Hon. Alain Bunyoni, the Burundi Minister of Public Security and immediate former Chairman of the Council of Ministers on 21st April 2009.
17. Members agreed that the next meeting of the Ordinary Council of Ministers to be held in Djibouti with the actual dates to be communicated through diplomatic channels.

Done at Bujumbura on the 21st April 2009.